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# CURRENT LITERATURE.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

### A college botany.

PROFESSOR ATKINSON<sup>1</sup> has revised and elaborated his *Elementary Botany* for college use. An elementary college text that includes all of the great divisions of botany seems to be in demand, at least according to the judgment of publishers. Perhaps the demand is both true and just, but it is a large one to make of a single author, who is supposed to be, from the college standpoint, either a morphologist, a physiologist, or an ecologist. One looks for inequality of grasp under such circumstances, unless the presentation is so elementary that it hardly belongs to a modern college course.

In spite of this disadvantage, Professor ATKINSON has covered the whole general field in a way that indicates an unusually wide familiarity with the various divisions of the subject. The parts dealing with physiology and morphology are largely elaborations of the same parts in the elementary text, introducing the new material suited to more advanced students and bringing certain parts up to date. The part dealing with ecology, however, has been entirely reorganized, and represents the first presentation of ecology in an American textbook from the college standpoint.

In the organization of the text, part one (pp. 135) deals with physiology, part two (pp. 207) with morphology, part three (pp. 115) with the ecology of plant members, part four (pp. 184) with plant associations, and part five (pp. 65) with representative families of Angiosperms. The space given to the different parts represents a balance unusually well-maintained for books of this type. There is always a temptation to overdo the part in which the author is especially interested.

Professor ATKINSON believes in numerous and good illustrations, with as many of them original as possible; and hence the volume is full of fresh and suggestive illustrations, and should be of great service to college classes in elementary botany.—J. M. C.

### Handbook of plant morphology.

The friends of ARTHUR, BARNES, and COULTER'S *Handbook of Plant Dissection*, published in 1886, will be glad to know that this helpful laboratory guide has been rewritten, thus bringing it again in touch with the best methods of elementary instruction. The authors have delegated the revision to other hands, and both for this reason and on account of changes necessitated by recent developments in botany, it is perhaps fitting that the new edition should appear under

<sup>1</sup> ATKINSON, GEORGE FRANCIS, A college text-book of botany. pp. xvi + 737. figs. 592. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 1905. \$2.00.